Boushiya Ellipsis

Bliss & Storm in Heaven

Volume 1 Chapter 2

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帽子屋エリプシス

Ellipse du chapelier

Ellipse.02

PLEASE GO IN, OWNER.. SIR.
!
GRANDPA'S REPRE-SENTATIVE!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
...IT'S YOU.
I BROUGHT THE NEW OWNER, SAKAGIRI
YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE LOAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS DON'T YOU?

OWNER. . SO IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S YOUR APPROVER.
HUH?
I'M THIS GUY'S. . .
WHAT?
NOW ALL THE NECESSARY MATERIALS ARE GATHERED TOGETHER.
...UHK!
tremble
THE TAG, NOW.
MAKE THE. . .
TAG. . .
Waaah!

...
THIS HAT IS FINE!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY WITH THAT OLD HAT ANYMORE
FSSH
GIVE IT UP.
HIS BODY DISAPPEARED FOR A MOMENT
huff
huff
OF COURSE I CAN KEEP ON RUNNING!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS REPLACE THE TAG
FOREVER AND FOREVER.
IF ONLY THAT ACCIDENT HAD NEVER HAPPENED I'D BE A HUGE STAR BY—
BY NOW...
cough
THE MAN DRIVING THE CAR WAS AN ACTOR WHOSE DEBUT FILM HAD JUST BEEN RELEASED
SHE DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHEN SHE WAS SEVEN.
cough cough
!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT MAN IS THE CRIMINAL WHO KILLED OZU AKANE

FORTY YEARS AGO,
AFTER THE HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT THAT TOOK OZU AKANE'S LIFE, A NATIONWIDE SEARCH WAS LAUNCHED FOR ACTOR KUROSAWA SHIN, WITH HIS FACE AND VOICE CONSTANTLY PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS AND PLAYED OVER THE RADIO AND IN MOVIE THEATRES.
!?
STOP MAKING SUCH A RACKET IF YOU WANT YOUR REQUEST APPROVED.
HE'S THE ONE WHO'LL DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.
EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES PILED UP ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
NO ONE THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY WAY HE COULD ESCAPE, BUT
NO MATTER WHAT THE POLICE AND YOUR GRANDFATHER DID TO CATCH HIM, HE CONTINUED TO EVADE THEM FOR FORTY YEARS.
DON'T GO BLABBING ABOUT THINGS THAT AREN'T ANY OF HIS BUSINESS, SAKAGIRI!
LEAVING BEHIND NOTHING BUT FOOTSTEPS IN A BACK ALLEY IN SHIBUYA
THE MAN DISAPPEARED,

AS PART OF A LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BUILDINGS WERE ERECTED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
ALONG WITH THIS SHOP, WHICH QUIETLY DID BUSINESS FROM THEN ON.
WAIT, PLEASE... SAKAGIRI-SAN.
OZU-SAN.
I'VE SAID IT TIME AND TIME AGAIN IT'S TRUE THAT THIS IS THE LAST PLACE KUROSAWA WAS SEEN.
BUT HE BOUGHT ONE HAT AND LEFT... AND THAT'S ALL.
COMING HERE WON'T GIVE YOU ANY CLUES OR ANYTHING TO HELP YOU FIND HIM.
NO...!
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING
FIRST OF ALL THERE ISN'T A SINGLE HAT IN THIS SHOP, IS THERE!
THEY'RE CUSTOM MADE TO ORDER.
ARE YOU TELLING ME A MAN ON THE RUN SPECIAL ORDERED A HAT?
THEN LET ME ASK IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE TOO... WELL, I WOULD ASK YOU, THAT IS.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I'M CLOSING THE SHOP.

丸
PLEASE, CONTINUE YOUR HAT SHOP IN MY NEW OFFICE BUILDING.
!
I PURCHASED THE RIGHTS TO ONE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
SAKAGIRI-SAN!
I DON'T CARE!
CLOSING THE SHOP IS MY DECISION.
AND SO I TOOK THE BUSINESS CARD HE OFFERED TRUSTED THAT HE WAS A MOVIE COMPANY EXECUTIVE AS IT SAID ON THE CARD. AND SOLD HIM A HAT...
I DIDN'T KNOW KUROSAWA WHEN HE FIRST CAME HERE
PLEASE, DON'T...
THE LAST CONNECTION TO THE CRIMINAL WHO TOOK IKAINE FROM ME.
THIS IS THE LAST CONNECTION I HAVE...
If you close the shop, then that man will disappear along with it, so please?!

Aat
Aax
...WHAT I SOLD TO KURO-SAWA...
AND THEN RE-CEIVE THE APPROVAL OF THE OWNER OF THE SHOP
IF YOU WOULD OZU-SAN, PLEASE SNAP THE THREAD WITH YOUR FINGERS!
YOU SEW THIS TAG INTO THE HAT. .
WAS, TO BE SPECIFIC, NOT A HAT. BUT RATHER A TAG TO A HAT

...?
O-
OKAY.
!?
WHAT...?!
whoosh
SNAP
OW...!
AND THE CLIENT THEN WEARS THE HAT
AND WHEN THAT HAP-PENS...
Poof
.....

THE TAG READS THE CLIENT'S MIND AND PICKS OUT THE STRONGEST DESIRE...
AMPLIFIES IT, EXTRACTS IT...
HOWEVER, IT CANNOT MAKE REAL ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT EXIST, NOR CAN IT ELIMINATE ANYTHING THAT DOES EXIST
fwip
Akane...?!
fwoosh
AND MANIFESTS THAT DESIRE.

AKANE ...
I WOULD GUESS THAT KUROSAWA USED THIS TO CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE SO THAT HE COULD CONTINUE RUNNING
THEN...
CAN I USE THIS TO FIND KUROSAWA, TOO?!
I'M AFRAID NOT
THE EFFECTS OF THE TAG CANNOT BE UNDONE ONCE IT HAS ALREADY BEEN USED.
HOW-EVER...
.....
fwoosh
...IT IS ALL AN ILLUSION THAT EXISTS ONLY WHEN THE HAT IS WORN.

THE EFFECT OF THE TAG MAY BE LOST IF THE CLIENT'S DESIRES CHANGE OR IF THE FABRIC OF THE TAG DETERIORATES.
KUROSAWA WILL LIKELY SHOW UP HERE AGAIN SOMEDAY TO ASK FOR A NEW TAG.
.....
SO I CAME BACK JUST WHEN THAT OLD MAN DIED?
DAMN, I'VE GOT GOOD LUCK...

YOU TURNED ME DOWN ONCE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR APPROVER, BUT TO THINK THAT THE NEW OWNER WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO TURN UP AND TELL ME WHO HE IS JUST BECAUSE I'M WEARING A GUARD'S UNIFORM!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE NEW TAG READY YET?

FWIP
NO MATTER WHO THE PERSON IS OR WHAT DREAM THEY HAVE THIS TAG REFLECTS THE DREAM WITH THE SAME STRENGTH THAT IT IS WISHED FOR.
I JUST FINISHED IT.
THERE IS ONLY ONE REQUIREMENT FOR THIS TO TAKE EFFECT.
AND THAT IS TO GAIN THE PERMISSION OF THE AVERAGE, EVERYDAY PERSON WHOM I CHOOSE.
THAT PERSON IS THE OWNER, AND IS CALLED THE APPROVER.
ME?!

HU... HUNCH?
WHAT ABOUT WHAT I WANT?!

AFTER THE PREVIOUS OWNER DIED, I THOUGHT ABOUT NOT MAKING NEW TAGS FOR A WHILE.
BUT I HAD A HUNCH THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS AFTER I USED THE LAST TAG LEFT TO ME ON YOUR BEAN JAM CAKES. WHAT A MESS THAT TURNED OUT TO BE.

YOU ARE FREE TO CUT OR NOT CUT THIS THREAD AS YOU LIKE. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.
IF YOU CUT IT, THAT'S THE SIGN OF YOUR APPROVAL.

A CHOICE ...?!
HURRY UP AND DO IT!
IN THIS SITUATION?!
HUMP
HUMP
HUMP

IF THIS RIDICULOUS STORY IS TRUE, THEN HE'LL JUST ESCAPE AGAIN, WON'T HE?
ARE YOU MAKING ME MAKE THAT DECISION?!
HUMP
HUMP

It's all right...
Cut it.

AHA HA!
...!?
SFX: snick
YES!
NOW I CAN RUN AWAY ANYWHERE AS LONG AS I WANT!
grab
AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS, THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER—
BE—
CAUGHT...
clink

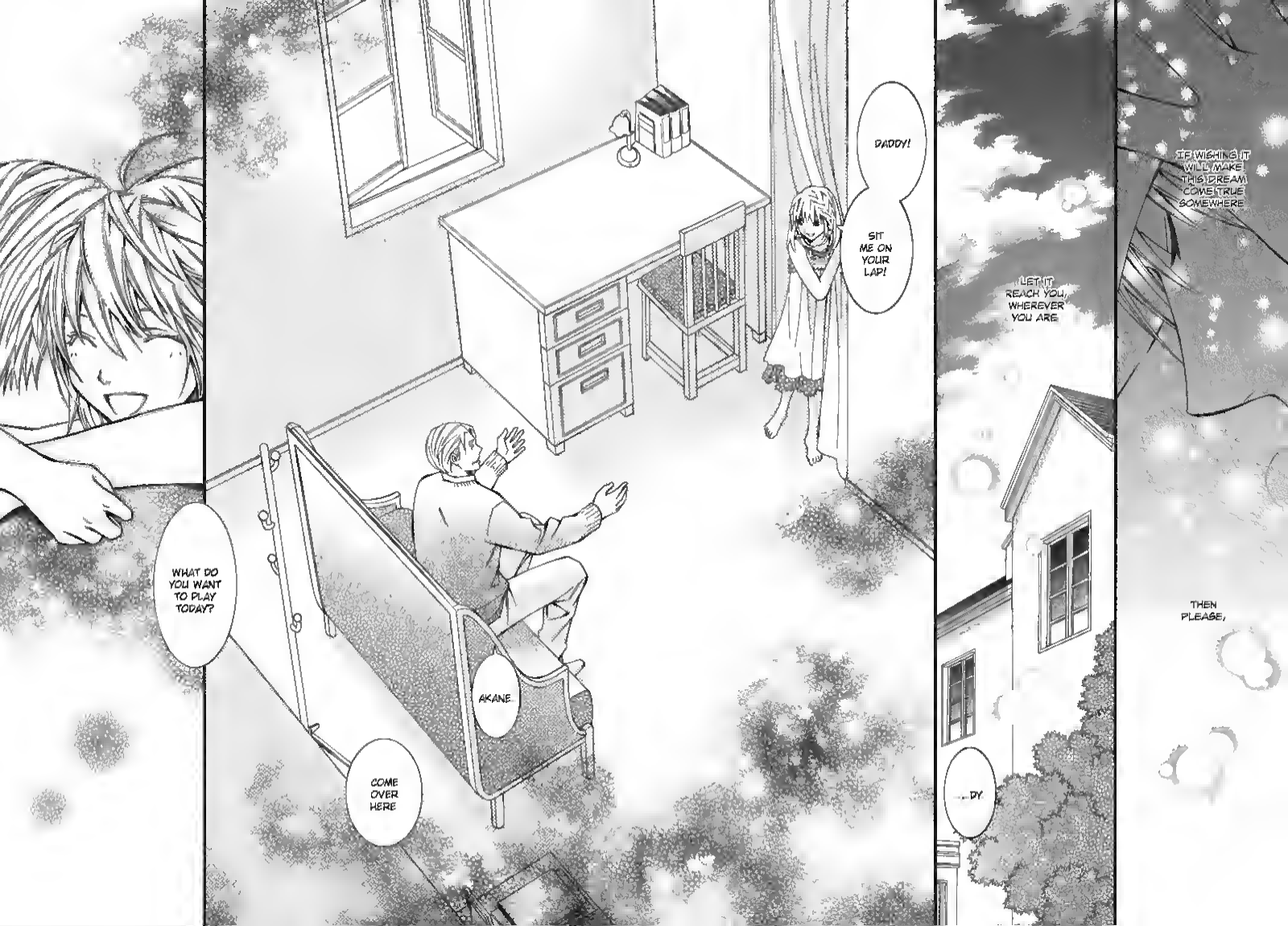
ヒュン
shi whoosh
ｼｬｷｰﾝ
YIX RUSTLE

He...
He disappe...
KUROSAWA'S SOLE WISH TO RUN AWAY WAS GRANTED FOR FORTY YEARS. AT SOME POINT, HE LOST SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE
THE FACT THAT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAD LONG SINCE EXPIRED...
HE DREAM TO ESCAPE AND ONE DAY BECOME A STAR...
EVEN WHEN HE LOST HIS OWN BODY!
NO WAY
IT PROBABLY HAPPENED IN HIS HIDEAWAY UNBEKNOWNST TO ANYONE ELSE...
JUDGING FROM THE STATE THIS TAG IS IN, I'D SAY IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO

HE WAS ALREADY DEAD...?
HAYA...
IS YOUR NAME, RIGHT?
I HAVE TO RE-TURN THIS TO YOU.
I'LL HAVE YOU COME HERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ASK?
.....
WILL YOU'LL UN-DERSTAND WHAT KIND OF JOB IT IS LATER.
plunk

AH...
YES?
AKANE-CHAN'S GONE.
OH.
THE AFTER-IMAGE PROB-ABLY FADED AWAY.
...I WONDER IF SHE GOT TO MEET GRANDPA.
DADDY!
DADDY! LET'S PLAY!
.....

THIS HAT IS RATHER OLD, SO I DON'T KNOW IF A NEW TAG WILL WORK OR NOT.
BUT IF YOU WANT IT, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THE TWO OF THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE
LET ME SEE IT.
slide
SUT...
Sniff
I FEEL LIKE I'M HAVING ANOTHER RIDICULOUS DREAM, AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOUR HAT SUDDENLY FELL ON ME.
GRANDPA


DADDY!
SIT ME ON YOUR LAP!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY TODAY?
AKANE
COME OVER HERE
LET IT REACH YOU, WHEREVER YOU ARE
IF WISHING IT WILL MAKE THIS DREAM COME TRUE SOMEWHERE
THEN PLEASE,

ALMOST AS IF IT WERE BEING MELTED AWAY BY THE NEW TAG.
GRANDPA'S HAT SLOWLY FELL APART AND FADED AWAY
clench
WHERE SHALL WE START?
heh heh
AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN A LONG FORTY YEARS SINCE I'VE HAD A NEW AP-PROVER.
HOLD ON
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS GUY...?
Forty years...?

帽子屋
Ellipse du chapelier
エリプシス